

Amendments to the Claims

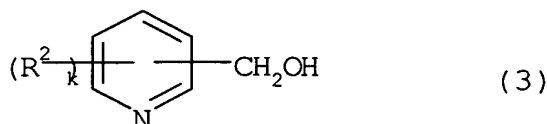
The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing heterocyclic aldehyde, which comprises reacting a heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring with a hypohalogenous acid salt in the presence of a base to oxidize said hydroxymethyl group,

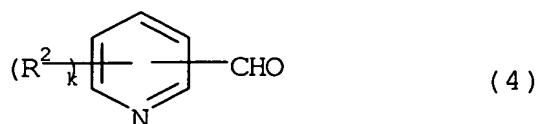
wherein the reaction is conducted in the co-presence of a 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl derivative having at least ~~two~~ four 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl-4-yl groups,

said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a pyridinemethanol represented by formula (3):



(wherein CH₂OH and R² are substituents bonded to a carbon atom of a pyridine ring; R² represents an alkyl group; k is an integer of 0 to 4) and

said heterocyclic aldehyde is a pyridinecarbaldehyde represented by formula (4):



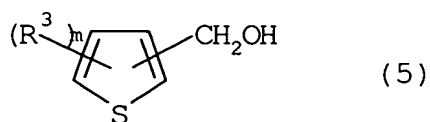
(wherein R^2 and k are the same as above).

2. – 6. (cancelled)

7. (new) A process for preparing heterocyclic aldehyde, which comprises reacting a heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring with a hypohalogenous acid salt in the presence of a base to oxidize said hydroxymethyl group,

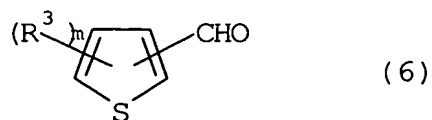
wherein the reaction is conducted in the co-presence of a 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl derivative having at least two 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl-4-yl groups,

said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a thiophenemethanol represented by formula (5):



(wherein CH_2OH and R^3 are substituents bonded to a carbon atom of a thiophene ring; R^3 represents an alkyl group; m is an integer of 0 to 3) and

said heterocyclic aldehyde is a thiophenecarbaldehyde represented by formula (6):



(wherein R^3 and m are the same as above).